

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 OFA-01 CG-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07

INT-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 COME-00 /084 W

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R 171755Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3720

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMCONSUL BREMEN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, IC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG-ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

1. GERMAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 16 THAT THE FRG AND ICELAND HAVE AGREED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON FRG FISHING WITHIN RECENTLY-IMPLEMENTED ICELANDIC 200-MILE FISHING ZONE. STATE SECRETARY WISCHNEWSKI WILL LEAD GERMAN DELEGATION TO TALKS BEGINNING OCTOBER 27 AND ENDING PRESUMABLY ON OCTOBER 29. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT DECISION TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WAS MADE AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER PLACED TELEPHONE CALL TO ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON INDICATING FRG WILLINGNESS TO DROP LANDING BAN ON ICELANDIC FISH CATCHES IF GOI WOULD AGREE TO DATE FOR TALKS. AGUSTSSON RETURNED GENSCHER'S CALL TWO HOURS LATER TO INDICATE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 27 WAS ACCEPTABLE TO ICELAND.

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2. SOURCE THOUGHT PROSPECTS OF AN AGREEMENT ARE GOOD. FRG IS NOW PREPARED TO WITHDRAW ALL FREEZER TRAWLERS FROM ICELANDIC WATERS AND WILL COOPERATE WITH OTHER EC COUNTRIES IN IMPLEMENTING TARIFF CONCESSIONS TO ICELAND WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD UP DURING FISHING DISPUTE. HE EXPECTS ICELAND TO REFRAIN FROM HARRASSMENT OF FRG TRAWLERS DURING INTERIM PERIOD PRIOR TO FORMAL AGREEMENT AND EXPECTS ICELAND TO ALLOW WETFISH TRAWLERS IN SELECTED 30-60 MILE ZONES DURING LIMITED PORTION OF THE YEAR. REPORTS FROM FRG EMBASSY IN REYKJAVIK LEAD FOREIGN MINISTRY TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ICELANDIC PUBLIC.

3. SOURCE ADDED THAT FRG IS NOT FORMALLY COORDINATING ITS POSITION WITH THE UK, BUT WISCHNEWSKI HOPES TO RECEIVE A BRIEFING FROM BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS, WHO WILL NEGOTIATE WITH THE GOI OCTOBER 23 THROUGH 24 IN LONDON. FRG HOPES TO KNOW AT THAT TIME IF AGREEMENT ALONG THE LINES PRESENTED ABOVE IS LIKELY TO BE REALIZED.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT, FISHING DISPUTES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN17081
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750361-1047
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751044/aaaabncc.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG-ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006